

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 050789

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SISMIK TO RETURN TO THE FRAY?

SEVERAL TURKISH NEWSPAPERS HAVE REPORTED THAT THE SISMIK WILL SOON RESUME OPERATIONS AND IS SCHEDULED TO ENTER THE AEGEAN LATE IN APRIL. THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT CONFIRMED MARCH 6 THAT THE SHIP WOULD SET SAIL WITHIN A MONTH, BUT DID NOT SAY WHERE IT WOULD OPERATE. HOWEVER, FOREIGN MINISTRY CHIEF OF AEGEAN AND LOS AFFAIRS TURMEN TOLD EMBASSY ANKARA MARCH 7 THAT TURKEY HAD NO PLANS TO SEND THE SISMIK INTO THE AEGEAN "AS LONG AS THE BERN AGREEMENT REMAINS IN FORCE."

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EMBASSY COMMENT: THE UNSTATED IMPLICATION OF TURMEN'S ASSURANCE IS THAT TURKEY WOULD CONSIDER THE BERN AGREEMENT NULL AND VOID IF GREECE DOES NOT AGREE TO SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE NEXT ROUND OF CONTINENTAL SHELF TALKS. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) ANKARA 1663, 3/7.)

2. TRUDEAU'S POPULARITY ON THE UPSWING

RESULTS OF A PUBLIC OPINION POLL CONDUCTED BEFORE PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON SHOW A DRAMATIC INCREASE IN HIS PERSONAL POPULARITY. THE LATEST POLL SHOWS TRUDEAU THE CHOICE OF 43 PERCENT OF THE ELECTORATE COMPARED TO OPPOSITION LEADER CLARK'S 30 PERCENT, WHILE LAST SEPTEMBER THE SAME POLL SHOWED TRUDEAU TRAILING CLARK BY 28 TO 36 PERCENT.

EMBASSY OTTAWA COMMENT: THIS TURNABOUT IS ESSENTIALLY DUE TO:

--A GROWING FEELING THAT TRUDEAU IS THE BEST QUALIFIED PERSON TO THWART THE QUEBEC SEPARATIST THREAT;
AND

--CLARK'S INABILITY, AFTER ONE YEAR AS OPPOSITION LEADER, TO DEVELOP CHARISMA OR A LEADERSHIP IMAGE.

THE EMBASSY BELIEVES PRESSURE WILL MOUNT FOR TRUDEAU TO CALL AN EARLY GENERAL ELECTION IF THE NEXT POLL PITTING PARTY AGAINST PARTY SHOWS THE LIBERALS CLOSING THE GAP.
(CONFIDENTIAL) OTTAWA 1360, 3/7.)

3. SPAIN: EUROCOMMUNIST SUMMIT NO HELP TO PCE

EMBASSY MADRID BELIEVES THE "EUROCOMMUNIST SUMMIT" DID LITTLE TO ADVANCE THE LONG-TERM GOAL OF THE SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCE) TO WIN ACCEPTANCE AS A GENUINELY DEMOCRATIC PARTY.
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CRATIC PARTY, THOUGH IT HELPED UNDERSCORE THE EXTENT TO WHICH IT HAS BECOME AN OVERT POLITICAL PARTICIPANT. PCE LEADER CARRILLO WAS UNABLE TO PERSUADE BERLINGUER AND MARCHAIS TO GO AS FAR AS HE HOPED IN DISTANCING EUROCOMMUNISM FROM THE SOVIET UNION, AND THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THE SUMMIT'S FAILURE TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN EASTERN EUROPE HAS REINFORCED SPANISH DISTRUST. IN ANY CASE, IT IS UNLIKELY TO HAVE MUCH EFFECT ON THE SUPREME COURT'S DECISION ON WHETHER TO ACCEPT THE PCE AS A LEGAL POLITICAL PARTY. (CONFIDENTIAL) MADRID 1716, 3/7.)
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